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The Daily Gamecock, Friday, March 24, 2006

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Senators debate use of activity fees

Proposed bill would keep undergrad fees in undergrads' hands

Jess Davis
STAFF WRITER

Debate about the allocation of undergraduate student activity fees erupted at Wednesday's Senate meeting, highlighting underlying issues about how the university uses student

fees. A bill proposed by Sen. Scott Spivey, chairman of the finance committee, and other finance committee members would restrict the allocation of undergraduate fees to programs that offered "direct involvement" to undergraduates. Spivey, a third-year finance student, said on the Senate floor that he introduced the bill because his undergraduate constituents complained that

during the last legislative session, about \$40,000 of undergraduate money went to graduate schools. That allocation caused controversy among the senators in February. The graduate, law, medical and pharmacy schools shared a \$40,000 allocation from undergraduate student activity fee money, with the schools getting about \$19 per student. In past years, an arbitrary sum was given to the law, medical and

pharmacy schools. Under the new legislation, graduate programs could still get undergraduate funds, but they would have to show that what they used the money for would not exclude undergraduates. "I don't think (it would) cut funding at all," Spivey said. "I think graduates would make (their programs) open to undergraduates." But graduate students say their student activity fee money pays for

undergraduate events that they aren't a part of, so they should be able to use leftover undergraduate funds given to them by the finance committee. Using numbers from the 2004 budget, law school Sen. Adam Russell said 92 percent of graduate student activity money goes toward above-the-line spending aimed mostly at undergraduates. Organizations that get above the line funding are Carolina

Productions, Student Media, Late Night Carolina and Student Government. Funding is also provided for administrative fees, some intramural sports, student support services and Student Life salary support. After above-the-line allocations are made, the remaining funds go back to the undergraduate and graduate students in direct proportion to how much

SENATE • 3

Frat presents \$12,500 to MS society

Gina Vasselli
STAFF WRITER

Sigma Nu presented the National Multiple Sclerosis Society with a check for \$12,500 on Thursday.

Multiple Sclerosis Society members Kim Lyle, development manager, and Julia Fillnow, development assistant, were at the Sigma Nu house to accept the check on behalf of the society from Sigma Nu brothers Collin Bromley, a fourth-year accounting student, and Mike Palka a fourth-year public relations student.

"The money will go to fund research to find a cause and a cure for MS," Lyle said.

Part of the money was raised during the GameBall Run, which occurs during the week of the Carolina-Clemson game. The USC and Clemson chapters of Sigma Nu have a brother in the fraternity responsible for running 1 of the 137 miles between USC and Clemson with the game ball. The brothers ask people sponsor them to run.

"We were responsible for about 77 miles," said Collin Bromley, a fourth-year accounting student.

The donation was also funded by members of the frat "going out into

DONATION • 3



Katy Blalock / THE GAMECOCK

South Carolina ranks No. 1 in the nation for gonorrhea, No. 2 for chlamydia and No. 4 for syphilis cases.

Spring break surprise?

Thomson Health Center offers information, care for sexually transmitted infections

Hatie Boucher
THE GAMECOCK

College students across America are returning from their spring breaks with more than week-long hangovers and blistering tans — something may be blossoming below.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 19 million new sexually transmitted infections occur each year, with almost half among ages 15 to 24.

According to the Medical University of South Carolina, southern states carry the highest STD statistics.

As reported in 2000, South Carolina ranks No. 1 in the nation for gonorrhea, No. 2 for chlamydia and No. 4 for syphilis.

The only good news is that gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis are bacterial and can be cured by antibiotics if caught early.

Most USC students are between 18 and 24 — the ages when most sexually transmitted infections occur.

The Thomson Student Health Center releases data yearly to show how many students have contracted a sexually transmitted infection. During the 2004-2005 academic year, 1,283 cases of sexually

transmitted infections were reported. The most prevalent of those cases is the human papilloma virus (HPV), which totaled 525 reported cases. HPV is the nation's most common sexually transmitted infection.

"There has been a definite increase in the morning after pill post-spring break this year," said Dr. William Boggs, a gynecologist at the Women's Care Center. "Also, the bacterial sexually transmitted diseases, like chlamydia and herpes, have been more common post-spring break."

But those figures can be

STD • 3

DESPITE DOUBTS, RHA BALL TO GO ON

Only 92 tickets sold after \$10,000 given to finance fundraiser

Hatie Boucher
THE GAMECOCK

It takes 70 to tango. RHA adviser Sean McGreevy gave the spring charity ball committee the OK to proceed with the fundraiser despite concerns last week that weak ticket sales would undermine the event.

Although RHA has sold about 92 tickets since last week and the event will not be canceled, some senate members still believe the large financial allocation given to the committee was not a smart choice.

In January, the RHA senate passed a financial allocation of \$10,000 to the production. The money is to pay for the conference center that will be rented, the food that will be provided, transportation to and from the conference center, a DJ and USCPD.

The allocation consumed 43 percent of RHA's yearly budget, leaving it with 46.3 percent of the budget for the rest of the year. The committee has cut the costs by \$3,000.

Some senate members believe the decision to pass the financial allocation was a mistake.

"To not have even sold 100 tickets by two weeks before the event is to seriously stain RHA's reputation for putting on these events," Cale Bonner, a second-year biology student, said. "The charities receiving donations would each be receiving less than half of the total costs."

RHA Sen. Randall Phillips, a third-year criminal justice student, said buzz is growing about the event.

"At 92 tickets being sold, we have already raised \$1,840 for Camp Hope and Camp Sertoma. The word

BALL • 3

Professor trying to condense Spenser's works

Volume would be all-encompassing

Drew Brooks
THE GAMECOCK

USC English Professor David Miller is trying to make the works of Edmund Spenser more accessible.

Miller is one of the four general editors developing

a scholarly edition of the collected works of Spenser. Of the "four great pillars of English literature" Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare and Spenser, Spenser is the only poet whose works are not included in an all-encompassing volume, Miller said.

"Spenser is the one of those four who is least taught, least

widely understood and appreciated," Miller said. Miller said Spenser's inaccessibility as compared to the other three greats is what leads Spenser to being under-taught in high school and college.

Academia's under-appreciation for Spenser's work cannot be blamed on a dearth of material. Overall, Spenser wrote 11 volumes of poetry, the most noted

of which is "The Faerie Queene" (1590-1596), "Sheperdes Calendar" (1579) and "Epithalamion" (1595).

The collection will include a three-volume library edition along with an electronic archive and a single-volume classroom edition. Editorial commentary will accompany the text.

The electronic edition

will include a hypertext with embedded links to outside sources relevant to the work. Miller envisions images from the Renaissance to give visual representations of Spenser's work.

"We don't just want to make a hardcover edition for the libraries; we want to create a digital archive that

SPENSER • 3

VIEWPOINTS

Chase Stoudenmire tells about volunteering for Dick Cheney; **Aaron Brazier** talks about how cool it is to be a dork, even on a college campus.

THE MIX

Bad Ass Coffee A Hawaiian-themed shop with fresh brews and a funny name will open in Five Points on April 7.



SPORTS

New Yorkers Kelley scores 21 and USC moves on to Madison Square Garden for second straight year.

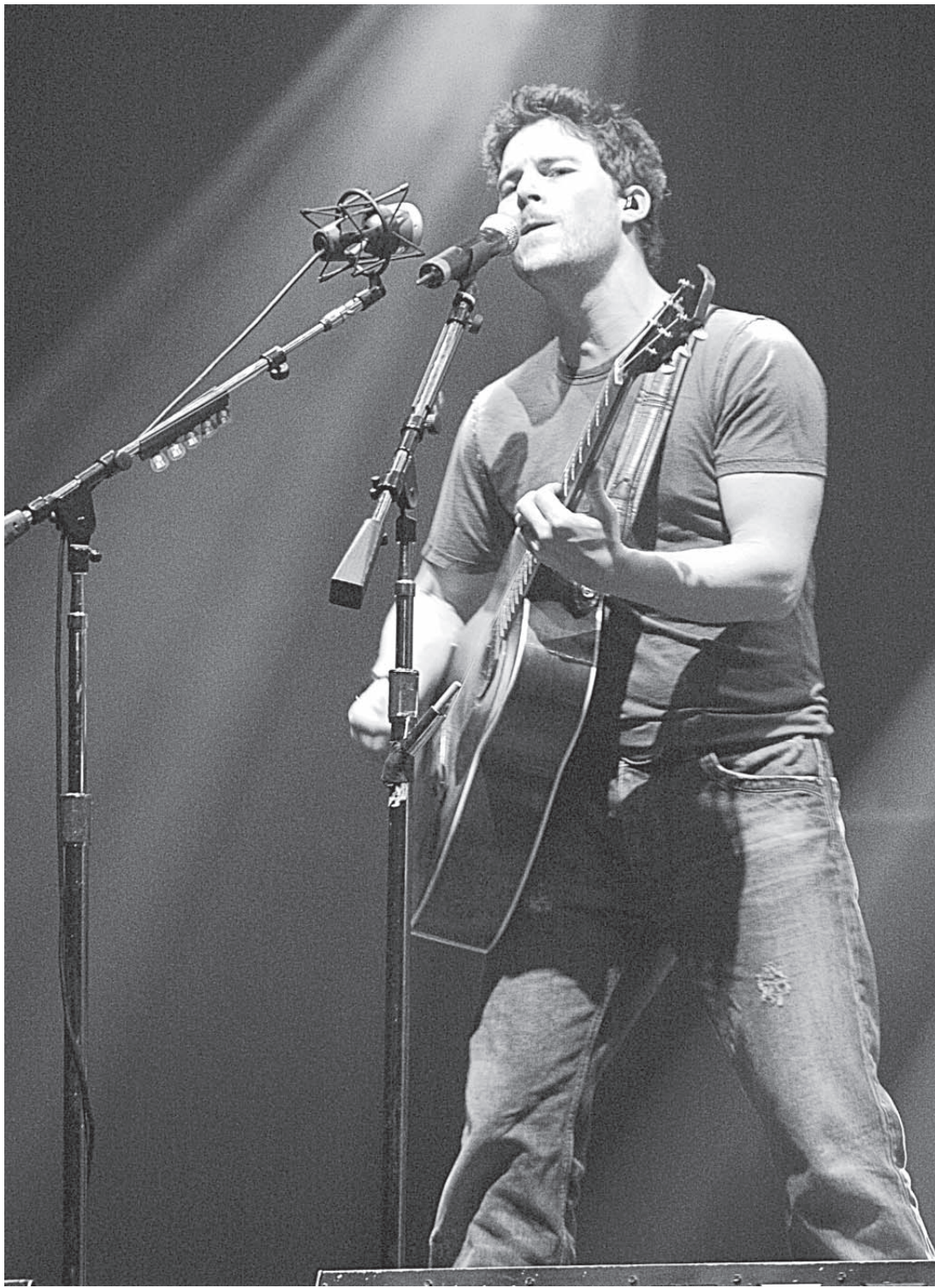


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ON THE WEB  WWW.DAILYGAMECOCK.COM
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LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

Nickelback guitarist Ryan Peake plays acoustic guitar in the Colonial Center Wednesday night. The group performed with supporting bands Trapt and Chevelle.

State

Officials disagree over nuclear management

AIKEN, S.C. — A top Energy Department official disagrees with a nuclear oversight group over how many private contractors should manage activities at the former nuclear weapons complex the Savannah River Site.

Assistant Energy Secretary James Rispoli said Wednesday the site needs two contractors — one to handle millions of gallons of high-level radioactive waste and another to manage other activities.

But the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, an independent oversight group created by Congress, said this month that dividing the work between two contractors could make it difficult for the federal agency to review work.

Nation

U.S. hires investigator to screen port cargo

In the aftermath of the Dubai ports dispute, the Bush administration is hiring a Hong Kong conglomerate to help detect nuclear materials inside cargo passing through the Bahamas to the United States and elsewhere.

The administration acknowledges the no-bid contract with Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. represents the first time a foreign company will be involved in running a sophisticated U.S. radiation detector at an overseas port without American customs agents present.

Freeport in the Bahamas is 65 miles from the U.S. coast, where cargo would be likely to be inspected again. The contract is currently being finalized.

World






Bus was unregistered at time of fatal crash

SANTIAGO, Chile — The tour bus that crashed in northern Chile, killing 12 elderly American tourists returning to their cruise ship after an excursion, was unregistered and not authorized to transport passengers, government officials said Thursday.

The cruise line, meanwhile, said the excursion had been arranged privately and was not among those offered to its passengers.

Two Americans survived the crash but suffered broken bones and were moved to an intensive care unit at a local hospital as a precaution, according to Celebrity Cruises President Dan Hanrahan and a doctor in Miami.

Weather Forecast

TODAY	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUE.
				
High 53 Low 38	High 60 Low 37	High 58 Low 39	High 64 Low 44	High 67 Low 51

CRIME REPORT

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 22
Assistance rendered,
8:00 a.m.

Petrigru,
1521 Greene St.
The victim, 72, said she felt dizzy and faint. She was transported to Providence Hospital.
Reporting officer:
A. Mitchell

Assistance rendered,
1:14 p.m.
Patterson Hall,
Bull St.

The victim, 80, was being pushed in his wheelchair and fell off of the curb, falling out of his wheelchair and hitting his head on the sidewalk causing it to bleed. He was transported to Palmetto Richland's emergency room.

Disorderly conduct,
10:30 p.m.
Colonial Center,
801 Lincoln St.

Reporting officer J. Silcox responded in reference to John Stricklin, 44, acting disorderly. Stricklin had a strong odor of alcohol coming from him and

was unsteady on his feet. He was arrested and transported to Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center after refusing treatment.
Reporting officer: N. Peter

Malicious injury to personal property,
11:53 p.m.

Lot C,
Colonial Center,
801 Lincoln St.
The complainant, 19, said someone broke the right-passenger outside side mirror.

Estimated value: \$200
Reporting officer: C. Taylor

THURSDAY,
MARCH 23
Grand larceny of speakers,
12:05 p.m.

Russell House,
1400 Greene St.
The victim, 38, said someone removed two Peavey Q Wave speakers from an unsecured loading dock.

Estimated value: \$1,600
Reporting officer:
J. Widdifield

College Board endures sharp criticism on SAT

Justin Pope

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another revelation about scoring errors on last October's SAT exam has the College Board, the test's owner, under criticism even from admissions officers — a group that relies on the SAT and typically supports it.

The SAT could also face legislative scrutiny: A New York state lawmaker said Thursday he plans to hold hearings about the scoring problem next month.

With the academic world at the height of admissions season, the College Board first disclosed a scoring problem with the October version of the test on March 7. It then followed with two new wrinkles, including news late Wednesday that 27,000 exams had not been rechecked as previously thought by Pearson Educational Measurement,

the College Board's scoring vendor.

Altogether, out of 495,000 tests, 4,411 students were given incorrectly low scores. One test was off by as much as 450 points on the 2,400-point exam, though the vast majority were off 100 points or less.

More than 600 students got incorrectly high scores, but those will not be changed.

At a time when high school grade inflation makes it harder to differentiate between candidates, many say the SAT is regarded as a valuable tool — even while they emphasize it is just one factor among many. The big problem, some said, is how the problem was handled.

"I think they botched it," said Jon Boeckenstedt, associate vice president for enrollment management at DePaul University.

CAROLINA BRIEF

USC names director of library science

Samantha Kelly Hastings has been named director of USC's School of Library and Information Science.

Hastings will replace Daniel Barron, who will retire at the end of July, and will begin her duties Aug. 1. She is an associate professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas.

Hastings' previous work has focused on the value of libraries and museums as cultural institutions.

"The role of information professionals continues to expand and gain importance in our social and cultural structures," Hastings said. "At the very least, we have the responsibility for assuring perpetuity of access to the information that people need to live full and productive lives."

Hastings served as interim dean at North Texas and was a consultant to the Bureau of Library Development for the state of Florida. She has been both a teacher and medical librarian in Tucson, Ariz., and is a former president of the American Society of Information Science and Technology.

THIS WEEK USC

TODAY

34th French Literature Conference, "Queer Sexualities in French & Francophone Literature & Film": Through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gambrell 428

Flutist Mary Real and bassoonist Patrick Herring student recital: 4 p.m. School of Music 206

Harmony Hoverman senior voice recital: 6 p.m. School of Music 206

Michael Morris junior clarinet recital: 7:30 p.m. School of Music 206

SATURDAY

Peter Kay doctoral composition recital: 7:30 p.m. School of Music 206

If you would like to have your organization's meetings listed on Page Two, please e-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

THE GAMECOCK

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DAT
OAT

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LSAT: 5/28 - 6/6 Tu 6p
MCAT: 5/30 - 8/12 Th 6p

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SENATE ● CONTINUED FROM I

those students generated in fees. The graduate, law, medical and pharmacy schools each get back about 8 percent of the fees they paid, Russell said. Individual schools then allocate that money.

The Senate Finance Committee handles undergraduate fee money. In its yearly budget, the committee first funds all undergraduate organizations that qualify for funding. Usually, thousands of dollars remain after that money is allocated. During the last session, for example, about \$90,000 remained after student organizations were funded. Of that \$90,000, \$50,000 went to intramural sports, and the remaining funds were split between the graduate schools, with no qualifications on what the money was to be used for.

“This is a big deal,” Spivey said. “Undergraduates don’t have access to their money.”

But not all senators agree.

“If they can’t get what they need above the line, why can’t Student Government give it to them?” asked Melise Cook, a second-year retail student. “We should be able to help them out like they help us out.”

Wednesday marked the bill’s first reading, and though it is due for a

second reading and vote next week, Spivey said he wanted to postpone voting on the bill for two weeks. This delay would allow his committee to define what “direct involvement” is and to possibly establish guidelines for how the finance committee would decide what constitutes a program “beneficial” to undergraduates.

Above-the-line spending is a separate issue, Spivey said — one that “needs to be addressed, and one that I will support wholeheartedly.”

In the meantime, however, Spivey says it’s still a problem that undergraduate funds are being allocated to graduate students. On the Senate floor, Spivey said graduate students haven’t gone to the administration to talk about above-the-line spending.

“They’re trying to fix above-the-line problems by dipping into undergraduate funding. They’re saying ‘We’ll just come steal from y’all’s money.’”

Fourth-year pharmacy student Megan Womack said she is concerned that graduate student fee money goes toward above-the-line spending that doesn’t target graduate students.

“If we pay money to a general fund, why isn’t it coming to us?” she said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

DONATION ● CONTINUED FROM I

the community to ask for donations,” Bromley said.

Bromley said alumni also contributed money.

Sigma Nu has been donating money to the society for more than a decade, with the total amount donated around

\$100,000, Bromley said.

Lyle said the society is very grateful to Sigma Nu for donating every year.

“Every year they’re able to help in the fight to end the devastating effects of MS,” Lyle said.

Multiple sclerosis affects the central nervous system by destroying the melanin,

which helps the nerve fibers conduct electrical impulses.

Symptoms of MS vary greatly from person to person. One person might have fatigue, while another might have severe vision problems. Some symptoms vary with intensity, but others might last longer

than others.

About 400,000 Americans acknowledge having MS, and every week about 200 people are diagnosed. Two-and-a-half million people suffer from MS worldwide.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

BALL ● I

is getting out, people are getting excited and they are starting to purchase tickets.”

Phillips said that even though they do not expect to make their goal of \$5,000, they have still raised a good bit, and any amount will be appreciated

by the charities.

Vice President Jonathan Ross, a second-year political science student, said although he does not necessarily agree with the amount spent on the ball, he will be attending and supporting it in any way possible.

“I think until another organization hosts an event

that everyone on campus attends that pointing fingers at RHA for frivolous spending is unnecessary,” said Terrill Wilkins, RHA president and a second-year history student.

Wilkins said he believes other organizations run into similar financial troubles. Wilkins said the money could have been

spent in other ways, but as president of RHA he will support the endeavor.

The ball is to be held on at the Columbia Conference Center on Friday, April 7 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the Russell House information desk.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

STD ● I

deceiving.

“We estimated that this number is probably only half the actual infections of all USC students, because students can use other health facilities like their private doctor, and worse: some students do not even know they are infected,” said Ted Lewis, a graduate assistant from the Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention.

It might be a long time before students who practiced unsafe sex during spring break show signs of an infection.

“It is important to note that some sexually transmitted infections can take weeks, months or even years to show symptoms,” Lewis said. “Several infections are

asymptomatic, meaning they show no symptoms. Individuals may not go and get tested if they feel they are not at risk, making tracking sexually transmitted infections extremely difficult.”

The health center offers tests for each infection. For herpes and HPV, tests include visual inspections.

“(The health center) also (offers) urine tests for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis,” Lewis said. “HIV tests are administered by blood work.”

The Women’s Care Clinic provides pelvic exams and pap smears. Ladies should see a health care provider if they experience a heavy vaginal discharge that itches, burns or smells. There could be sores on the vagina or vulva, heavy vaginal bleeding, painful

intercourse, menstrual cramps causing one to miss school or work and any signs of pregnancy.

Men often do not experience symptoms from a sexually transmitted infection, but those who do have a need to urinate often accompanied by burning and pain. There can be a white, watery or yellowish and thick drip or a discharge from the penis. Sores, bumps or blisters might appear near or on the penis, testicles or even on the mouth.

“Stay STD Free,” a brochure offered by the health center, says many students find themselves taking sexual risks for a variety of reasons.

“People are more likely to take risks if they are lonely, anxious, depressed or bored. Or if they are

happy and celebrating,” according to the brochure.

How should someone go about telling their partner they have been diagnosed with a STI?

“Telling a partner about an STI can be extremely difficult,” Lewis said. “We highly recommend any student who finds themselves infected to seek advocacy from our office, the Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention, or counseling from the Counseling and Human Development Center. Counselors and advocates can practice the conversation with you. It is important to learn all you can about the infection and be prepared to educate your partner of cures or treatments.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

SPENSER ● CONTINUED FROM I

could serve purposes for both research and teaching,” Miller said.

The other editors of the proposed 12-year project are Joseph Loewenstein of Washington University, Patrick Cheney of Penn State and Elizabeth Fowler of the University of Virginia.

The project was proposed in 1998 and is under contract with the Oxford University Press. Miller and his colleagues are halfway

through the first volume.

Miller’s love of Spenser’s work is far from a recent development. Instead, it has been a lifelong interest and passion that has followed him since he read Spenser in his freshman English class in college.

Spenser was Miller’s subject for his senior thesis at Yale University in 1973 and also for his dissertation at the University of California at Irvine in 1976.

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Who was Princess Caroline's first husband?

Answer: Philippe Duple

Study Abroad: a World of Opportunity

THE TOPIC

Study abroad offers a unique opportunity for students to get to know other cultures, gain a greater sense of independence and increase their career potential. And it's not as difficult, time-consuming or expensive as many might think.

The boundaries of countries no longer can define the limits of our imaginations. The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and seeing and appreciating the world from the perspectives of others has become a necessity.

Though studying abroad provides students the opportunity to visit foreign locations, meet people from around the world, enjoy their independence and bolster their resumes, many students never leave their home campus. Too often, students believe the myths about studying abroad and never learn the truth: studying abroad is an experience like no other.

Here's a look at students' top concerns about studying abroad: **Expense:** Often, study abroad costs no more than taking classes here at USC. Students can pay tuition at USC to attend a school abroad, and they can still use their financial aid toward this

cost. In addition, USC and other sources provide scholarships specifically for students studying abroad.

Time: Many students are hesitant to study abroad for fear that they will have to postpone graduation. Students who work with their academic advisers, however, have no trouble creating study abroad academic plans that allow them to study abroad and graduate on time.

When studying abroad, most students enroll in 9 - 12 hours. A pre-approved academic plan will ensure that these hours transfer to USC and are accepted as credits toward graduation.

Language: For students who aren't comfortable conversing in another language, study abroad programs in English-speaking countries like England, Ireland and Australia offer a solution. In other countries, classes taught in English are available.

Students interested in studying abroad should start by contacting the USC Study Abroad Office, which can guide students in every step of the process.

Study abroad isn't as hard as it may seem, and it's truly the experience of a lifetime.

-- Meredith David
senior management major

THE BUZZ

"I'm in a beautiful place with amiable people, delicious food, pristine beaches and captivating music and dance. For all this and more, I consider studying abroad to be the best decision I've ever made."

-- senior Mica Jenkins is studying in Brazil

"Being away from English-speaking America is scary only for a few minutes, and then traveling is the most exhilarating feeling...it doesn't get much better than this."

-- junior Betsy Curry is studying in Italy

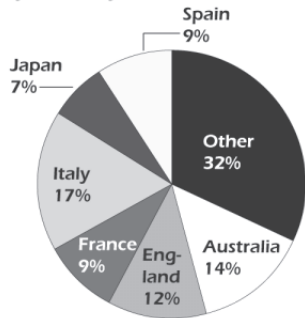
"I learned so many things about language and culture while I was abroad that I could never have learned sitting in a classroom. Studying in Spain gave me a different perspective on the world and taught me a lot about myself."

-- senior Rebecca Spencer studied in Spain

THE NUMBERS

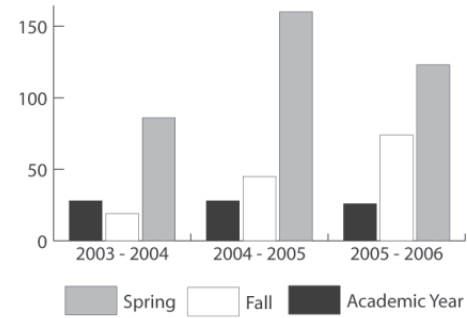
Destinations

USC students abroad, by country



Participation

USC students abroad, by semester and year



THE FACTS

• The United States Senate has designated **2006 the Year of Study Abroad.**

• During the 2004 - 05 academic year, **more than 400 USC students** studied abroad in 35 countries.

• 26.2 percent of USC freshmen say that chances are “very good” that **they will participate in a study abroad program.**

• This academic year, 53 percent of USC students studying abroad **studied in a non-English speaking country without knowing the language** of the host country.

• Each year, **USC's Study Abroad Office guides hundreds of students** through the study abroad process. Learn more about study abroad by contacting the office:
www.sa.sc.edu/sa
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Study Abroad: a World of Opportunity was produced by the Division of Student Affairs
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IN OUR OPINION

When talking to profs, sidestep stupid slang

Those chummy replies to no-nonsense e-mails from your professors could be rubbing them the wrong way.

A recent New York Times article explored the boundaries and etiquette of student-professor e-mails. Many professors find students are crossing the line from class-related discussion to inappropriate levels of informality.

In the name of professionalism, courtesy and the English language, those professors are right on the money.

Students need to forget all notions of striking up a Mr. Holland-ish connection.

When first e-mailing a professor, students need to forget all notions of striking up a magical, Mr. Holland-ish connection — no matter how cool they’ve heard their professors are. It’s best to stick to class-related topics, see how they respond and follow their lead.

Forgo AIM speak and try to form complete sentences when talking to professors. Capitalize, punctuate and spell properly. Call them Mr., Ms. or Dr. Students will sound a lot smarter, especially in an age when e-mail and Internet chatting have eradicated good penmanship.

Sign up for an e-mail account that doesn’t have the phrase “bootylicious_69” in it. Most professors won’t care about account names if students sound halfway intelligent in the body of the e-mail, but a more professional name couldn’t hurt, and students will need one when they begin hunting for jobs anyway.

If an informal correspondence begins, don’t get too comfortable. The next off-the-wall political jab or inappropriate joke could turn them off. There’s nothing wrong with connecting with a professor, but students must tread lightly before assuming how friendly they have become with their professors.

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

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CORRECTIONS

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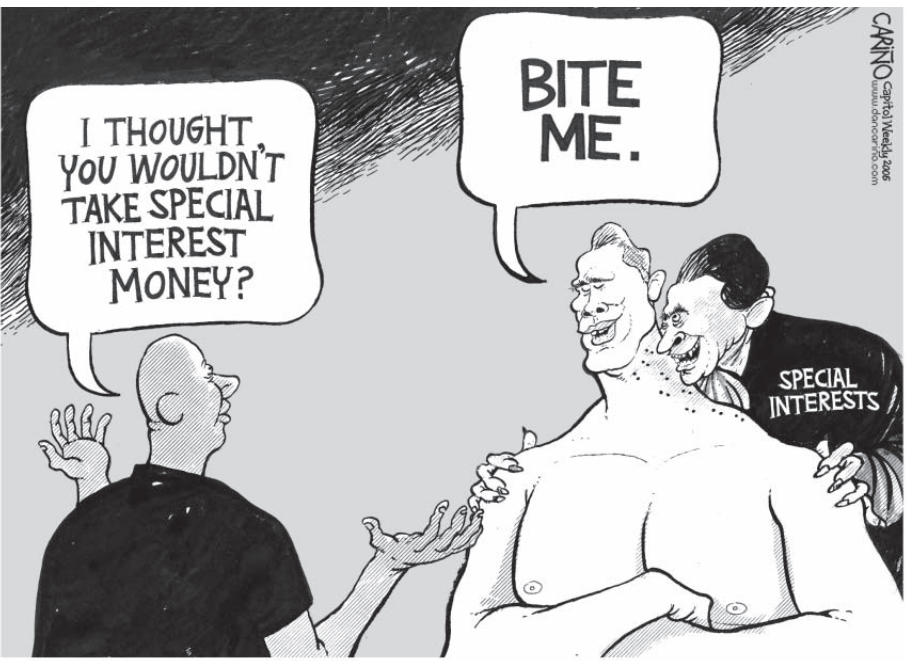
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Courtesy KRT Campus

Donkey or elephant, officials deserve respect

Despite political side, everyone should hold executives in esteem

This past Friday, Vice President Dick Cheney made appearances in two South Carolina cities: Rock Hill and Charleston. Hours later, a shooting occurred in Columbia in which at least one man was shot in the face. Coincidence? I think not.

I received a phone call last Wednesday asking me what my plans were for the next two days. Less than 48 hours later, I was standing in a room in Rock Hill listening to a speech from the vice president, along with about 100 people who had just paid \$2,500 to have their picture taken with him.

Now I’m no expert when it comes to money, but I think it would be smarter to pay a friend five bucks to Photoshop me into one and spend the rest on a lifetime supply of spare shoelaces. But that’s just me.

I can’t lie; there was a legitimate reason for the cost. The event was a fundraiser for a man running for U.S.



CHASE STODENMIRE
Second-year history student

Congress. That’s right — I volunteered at a Republican Party fundraiser. You may be able to tell from previous columns I’ve written that I’m not exactly what most people would consider to be a model Republican.

That’s probably because (according to them) I’m a pink, liberal, amoral, bleeding-heart, baby-killing, weak-on-defense, tax-and-spend Democrat — white, male, born and raised in the South. Pretty soon you’ll be able to see me at the Riverbanks Zoo; we’re a dying breed.

It was a total James Bond experience — I was undercover. The man on the inside. A sheep in wolf’s clothing.

Probably the most depressing part of the event was learning the truth behind those stone-faced men in black suits. There is nothing secret about the Secret Service — they all wear a shiny blue pin with a gold star on it that just screams, “I’m allowed to shoot

you.” Seriously, where are Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones when you need them?

Most awkward moment? The blank stare on someone’s face after confessing that I’m on the “other side.”

My favorite moment? Finding out moments later that she’s the student body president at Bob Jones University. Oh, chuckle chuckle.

Before being admitted, we had to pass a background check to make sure we aren’t enemy combatants or likely to cause trouble. Next time I go through that process, this column will probably show up on the screen in big red flashing letters. Knowing that, let me say this:

No, I’m not Cheney’s biggest fan. But regardless of what we may think or say about them in private, there is a certain level of respect that we should all pay to sitting executives.

I was glad to have had this opportunity and think the world would be a much better place if we stopped demonizing our political opponents.

Even if they do shoot 70-year-old men in the face.

Not everyone understands censorship, satire

This columnist’s critic needs an illustration of own suppression

Some people need to learn a lesson about censorship.

A long time ago, I was a playwright who worked with a theatre group on campus.

One play I did was a satirical dark comedy about reality television. It was about a man who found himself on a 2012 reality television show in which three strangers were brought together to have sex.

One of the strangers was drugged and unconscious throughout most of the show.

The person in question ignored all of my e-mails (I did the play without getting permission), but she didn’t ignore the theatre department’s rumor mill and came to



TIM McMANUS
Fifth-year print journalism student

a rehearsal about a week before we performed.

After an incomplete rehearsal, I was told my play would offend people (surprise!), that most of my audience

would be college students (surprise, again!) and that it would especially offend guys who get girls drunk to take advantage of them (another surprise... but this time not sarcastic).

I was told to make the character who condemned taking advantage of drugged and unconscious girls “preachy” and “cartoonish.”

I didn’t like this suggestion. For one, satire is a way to judge something without being preachy.

And it would satirize everything the “good guy”

said, making the audience say, “What an idiot! He’s against rape, heh.”

After seconds of consideration, I decided to ignore everything I was told by this person.

And the play went great.

But how can she learn her lesson?

I am against censorship. But for her to see what it’s like to be censored at the last minute by an unapologetic person who has never seen the whole play would teach her a mighty fine lesson.

Submission policy

Letters to the editor should be less than 300 words and include name, phone number, professional title or year and major, if a student. E-mail letters to gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu. Letters will be edited. Anonymous letters will not be published. Call the newsroom at 777-7726 for more information.

America opens arms to dorky, sci-fi loving, unsexed breed

Finally ‘Star Wars’ fans, video gamers get their place in mainstream

There’s something I have to confess to everybody.

I am a full-up paid member of The Committee for the

Liberation and Integration of Terrifying Organisms and their Rehabilitation Into Society, a dorkdom collective from Britain with an unfortunate acronym.

Over the years, I have carefully synthesized British and American dorkiness into a sleek, streamlined, unsexed hybrid of brilliance.

Spring break may have been a party time for most, but for me it was six hours on Wikipedia reading about comic books and 80 hours of a Japanese role-playing game. If somebody states an opinion about Superman, guess who is there to contradict them? DC Comics would be proud.

Despite the uncool nature of dorkdom, it is becoming very cool. Vin Diesel plays “Duneon and Dragons.” I appreciate a buff movie star with no taste trying to speak up for the disenfranchised multisided die minority.

“Dungeons and Dragons” is not dorky. It is nerdy, and should be abolished. There are entire volumes of arbitrary dislike I could scribe for D&D (as it’s known by those dweebs) being entirely out of synch with demigods like Tolkien. They should grow up.

Dorkdom is better than that. It’s the seven dueling techniques for Jedi (and subforms), Lisa Simpson’s quote about USC, the form of government the serfs used in “Monty Python and the Holy Grail” and how the name Sephiroth makes your blood boil in fury — I shall avenge you Aerith! Note spelling. Dorks know that.

After the success of films on the dorkdom spectrum from “Napoleon Dynamite” to “Star Wars,” traditional dorkdom is daringly moving into the mainstream.

Video games like “Worldwide Soccer Manager” are used by professional sports teams to scout players. Kids in Thailand doing research on local teams are electronically informing teams with millions of dollars about potential talent.

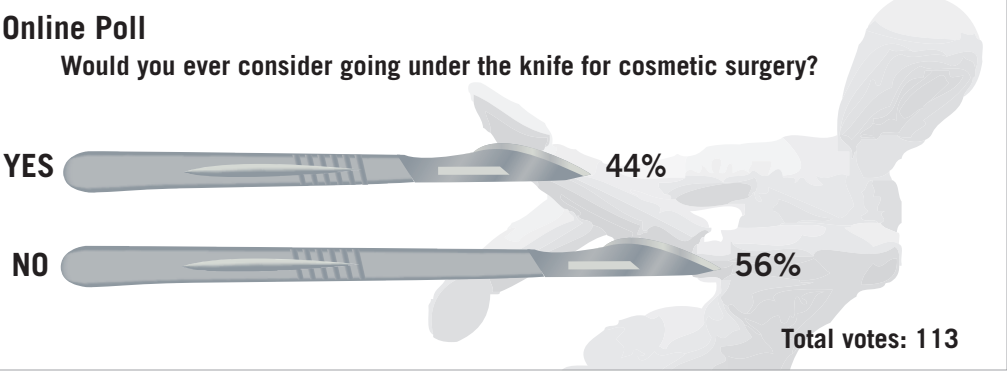
Talk about super dork chills running down my back in excitement.

Even video games, the classic uncool, are overtaking movie watching. From darkened bedroom point-and-click games to highly sophisticated slaughter fests against the “Flood and the Covenant,” most of America knows their Nintendo from their Petz.

Perhaps it is high time to accept that we are all dorks in one way or another and sign onto the Dork Revolution. Even knowing specific fashion house designs and the leading quarterback for the Tennessee Titans in 1998 are dorky now. Hobbies that were dorky are mainstream. It’s high time for the United State of Dorkdomia.



AARON BRAZIER
Fourth-year philosophy student





Based on a legend of coffee-carrying donkeys, Bad Ass Coffee will set up shop in Five Points with a kickoff event April 7-8.

Tim McManus / THE GAMECOCK

COFFEE WITH A KICK

Say 'aloha' to Bad Ass Coffee, java with Hawaiian flava

Tim McManus
Staff Writer

Columbia's coffee scene is about to get a swift kick to the rear end as Bad Ass Coffee is set to open its newest franchise on April 7. Bad Ass Coffee is a Hawaiian-owned chain of coffee shops, each featuring a unique Hawaiian-themed experience.

The shop in Medford, Ore., has a sculpture of a surfer on a wave, and the shop in Tuscaloosa, Ala., has an overhead "lost jungle" as well as many tiki masks.

J. Todd Wrenn, the owner of the local Bad Ass franchise, said the chain "offers a more unique atmosphere within the coffee industry."

"That's why I wanted to bring Bad Ass Coffee to Columbia," he said. "Within the store, the interior walls are painted like sunsets."

The store will also feature palm trees, sand, surfboards and a Hawaiian waterfall. The beverages will be Hawaiian-themed. "Most all the coffees have Hawaiian blends," he said.

Bad Ass specializes in Kona coffee, which is native to Hawaii. Kona was primarily transported up and down the mountains by donkeys, or asses.

According to company legend, locals called these donkeys "bad ass ones," and the donkeys could be heard echoing throughout the mountains.

"The Bad Ass Coffee Company

named its company in honor of these hard-working donkeys," said Amber Hawkins, publicist for the coffee chain.

In 2003, there was controversy before Bad Ass opened its Tuscaloosa, Ala., store. A community leader called the company's name "shocking," but he could do nothing to stop the store from opening.

Wrenn said he doesn't anticipate any controversy over the Columbia store. He said the only people who will have a problem are those who don't understand the background of the name company's name.

Aside from coffee, Bad Ass will serve espresso, frozen drinks and blended drinks.

They will also serve breakfast

items such as pastries, bagels and muffins, as well as sandwiches and desserts.

Wrenn is particularly enthusiastic about Bad Ass' homemade ice cream.

"We churn all the ice cream in the store," he said.

Wrenn plans for the flavors to change throughout the year and has an idea for a "flavor of the week" policy. His favorite flavor of Bad Ass ice cream is Cinnamon Walnut.

The Columbia Bass Ass Coffee shop will have wireless Internet access, a flat screen TV and comfortable couches. His store will be "a good place to hang out in and taste any coffee you can't get anywhere else," he said.

Wrenn purchased the rights to five stores — one in Charleston, one in Charlotte and two in Myrtle Beach, in addition to the one in Columbia. He plans to open them all within the next three years.

Bad Ass Coffee's two-day opening ceremony April 7-8 will feature hula dancers, free coffee sampling and a chance to get your picture taken with the Bad Ass Coffee Donkey, which Wrenn said will be a guy in a donkey suit.

"I don't know if we'll have a live donkey," he said.

Bad Ass Coffee will be located on 819 Harden St. in Five Points, right beside Quiznos.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

'Vendetta' paints grim political picture

Natalie Portman shines in complex futuristic thriller

"V for Vendetta"
★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

Margorie Riddle
STAFF WRITER

Natalie Portman shines in "V for Vendetta," which packs a political punch with its down-with-the-government plot and burning-Parliament fireworks show.

The film fast-forwards to 2015 and suggests the United States is in civil war while Britain lives by totalitarian rule.

Britain's abrasive government holds townspeople to early curfews. Violent police raid the streets. The local British Television Network all but brainwashes its citizens to unquestionably follow Chancellor Adam Sutler's rule. One evening



Special to THE GAMECOCK

Hugo Weaving strikes an ominous pose as V, the caped vigilante who threatens the government in "Vendetta."

Evey, played by Portman, leaves her apartment past curfew to visit a friend and is stopped by a rough group of officers. A masked man known as V rescues Evey. He spouts quirkily about being a vigilante.

V takes Evey to a nearby rooftop to watch a fireworks show. Suddenly at the stroke of midnight, a government building blows up with an enormous fireworks show and music playing in the street's loudspeakers. V amusingly

says, "Remember, remember the fifth of November."

The next day at the British Television Network's building where Evey is employed, V invades the studio and makes a public announcement. If people want to regain control of their government, they need to be ready for takeover one year later on Nov. 5. In his haste to evade the authorities and leave the building, V is almost shot by an officer. Evey rescues him but is

knocked unconscious in the scuffle. Evey wakes up in V's underground house. V tells her it's not safe for her to leave since she aided in his escape.

Eventually Evey is able to get away and seeks refuge with her boss, Deitrich. As a controversial humoristic talk show host, Deitrich pushes the wrong buttons after a comical but offensive appearance by Chancellor Sutler. He is brutally arrested. Evey tries to escape and is captured.

Evey is put in a cell and tortured for days. On the day of her execution, she is freed. Evey must decide what she truly believes in and who she wants to be. She also must determine who V is and what he means to her.

The plot successfully and effortlessly twists and turns until the ending, which was slightly disappointing. Part of the ending is hokey, but the conclusion fits the film well. Portman exhibits her usual gutsy performance. While it is still very early, if

'VENDETTA' ● 6



Special to THE GAMECOCK

DHEC will take applications for new body art shops today. Body Rites has been piercing Columbia since 1997.

Five Points piercing shop hankering to tattoo you

Carolina DeSanctis
THE GAMECOCK

Not surprisingly, Body Rites is now the most well known body piercing studio in the Columbia area, standing out for its reputation for upholding high standards of cleanliness and customer service.

Originally opened in August 1997, Body Rites was first owned by brothers Scott and Kevin Brewer, whose vision for the shop is

now maintained and upheld by its current owners, Shannon and Franklin McKenzie, who took over in 2002. The shop is ran by two other McKenzies; Sarah, an experienced body piercer; and Martin, who runs the front desk.

The interior setup of Body Rites is artistic and unique, as the walls are adorned with industrial metal paneling, various paintings, drawings

PIERCINGS ● 6

Hot Lava’s ‘Dinosaur’ rocks stone age, preludes new disc

“The Way of the Dinosaur”
Hot Lava Monster
★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Chad Henderson
THE GAMECOCK

Have you ever been making Pizza Rolls and the music was rocking so hard that they exploded, leaving a trail of burning pepperoni carnage all over your face? No, of course you haven’t. At 8 p.m. Saturday, Hot Lava Monster will melt people’s brains in Columbia when they take the stage at Headliners. Currently, the band is recording its next album in Atlanta.

In 2004, Hot Lava Monster released its sophomore effort, “The Way of the Dinosaur.” This six-song EP rocks relentlessly and shows no mercy as this extremely tight local group shows its hook-writing know-how. Listening to this album is like taking a jet back to the 1970s and ‘80s and landing in an arena rock show surrounded by groupies and long-haired rockers. Listen and you’ll understand the imagery. This band has it all: solid drums, unique guitar riffs and soaring vocals that leap out of the speaker and grab you by the ears saying, “Listen to me!” The band gets a unique sound for every song without losing its unique brand of rock that takes lessons from such legends as Led Zeppelin and Boston.

Hot Lava Monster’s guitar work and overall energy is similar to The Darkness, save for the fact



Special to THE GAMECOCK

Local band Hot Lava Monster will hit up Headliners this weekend, causing Pizza Rolls to explode across the state.

that lead singer Patrick Baxley doesn’t shriek when he sings. Instead he stays in the mid-range and only heads up the vocal stairway to heaven to punctuate the melody in all the right spots. Baxley’s vocal stylings are more like the lead singer of Lifehouse. You know, that band that sang “Hanging by a Moment”? Well, they obviously were hanging on by something weak, because the band disappeared after that song.

Hot Lava Monster writes honest music that takes a moment in time and blows it up into a rock song that makes that moment eternal. All of the better songwriters strive to do this because it helps people connect with their music more. How many times have you been emotional and turned on N*Sync’s “Space Cowboy” and exclaimed, “I know just how you feel!”?

Baxley, the band’s main

songwriter, said, “We just try to capture simple, honest truth’s when they come along. There’s something very therapeutic about taking a snapshot of a horrible memory and turning it into an anthem we can celebrate.” Baxley’s theory is certainly evident in such songs as “Highway,” where he talks about problems with his lady. However, the tune has a melody that is easy to sing along with. The energy of this song certainly makes you feel like getting in a car and speeding down the highway.

“Ocean” is another song that stands out on this album. It’s written in a swung style beat that gives it a certain waltz feel. It talks about the way a mate can add insult to injury when things are tough. If you live long enough, you start to realize that with great love

HOT LAVA ● 1

‘VENDETTA’ ● CONTINUED FROM 5

the Academy can remember her an entire year from now, it wouldn’t be surprising to see her receive an Oscar nomination for “V for Vendetta.”

She has great comedic ability, but as she’s shown in “Closer” and now in “V for Vendetta,” she exhibits a wide acting range and can handle dramatic roles easily. When she’s being tortured, viewers can’t help but feel sorry for her. Viewers can see the change Evey undergoes.

Hugo Weaving as V is funny and moving while also quite Matrix-esque as a fighter. As his story unfolds and his “vendetta”

is explained, V also reveals his brutal vengeance for those who have wronged him.

When Britain became a totalitarian state, the chancellor initiated experimental programs which tortured the participating patients. V was one of the patients and suffered brutal burns over his entire body. Thus he stays masked and caped throughout the film. Even Evey never sees his face. His story will disturb viewers and sway them to cheer him on.

“V for Vendetta” gives a chilling forecast for the world’s affairs, but its solvent for the international ills lies with V and possibly

Evey, if she can learn to trust a man whose face she never sees. The film isn’t set that far in the future. Unsurprisingly, the British-set film casts a grim shadow over the United States’ future.

The thriller succeeds in offering excitement, but it also reels viewers in with its well-told story. The pace keeps the film interesting and provides tender moments as well. “V for Vendetta” and Portman deserve recognition for their powerfully entertaining film and uniquely thought-provoking look at the future of the world.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

PIERCINGS ● CONTINUED FROM 5

and photographs. Above all the obvious creativity, the sheer and spotless condition of the shop is what garners the most attention.

During the week, Body Rites averages six to 10 piercings a day and around 10 to 12 on weekends. While they accept walk-ins in addition to general appointments, Shannon McKenzie said she likes the convenience associated with customers making appointments. She said that it makes for faster service and gives the customer more time to think about their piercing.

Like any other establishment, Body Rites has its regulars, but they are not necessarily all piercing addicts. “There are plenty of times when people or friends come in just to say hello,” McKenzie said.

Being a piercing studio, weird requests come with the territory. Customers have been known to ask for things they have seen on

body piercing Web sites. But according to McKenzie, customers don’t realize that some of those were just done for the purpose of the photograph.

Normally, they don’t usually get anything too crazy. The most typical piercing requests include those in the navel, nostril and helix or cartilage areas. “I guess people think genital piercings are kind of weird, but we actually do a lot of those,” McKenzie said. The staff at Body Rites love their customers and always stick to the rules that have set them apart from other studios. They are sticklers when it comes to checking and bringing a parent along for those who are underage. If an ID has been tampered with in any way, they will not accept it as valid. Instances like these have occurred in the past, but, as McKenzie said, “it’s not terrible.”

Body Rites is looking into expanding its name to cover tattooing as well, but McKenzie said she wants

to keep the two mediums separate from each other in terms of the professionals they use. “Normally, you’ll have a great tattooist and they go, ‘Oh yeah, I could pierce somebody,’ or a piercer saying they can do tattoos, but then that’s where the quality gets iffy,” she said. DHEC begins taking applications for new tattooing studios on March 24, which she hopes will open up the market and bring in a whole new realm of potential customers.

McKenzie said the business at Body Rites has to do with the area, the economy and the fact that people normally use extra money to pay for their piercings, something like a gift for themselves. As for why people like to get pierced, McKenzie said it’s a personal thing.

“I think it has a lot to do with individuality,” she said. Body Rites has put nearly a decade of business under its belt and it’s clear

PIERCINGS ● 1

Solutions

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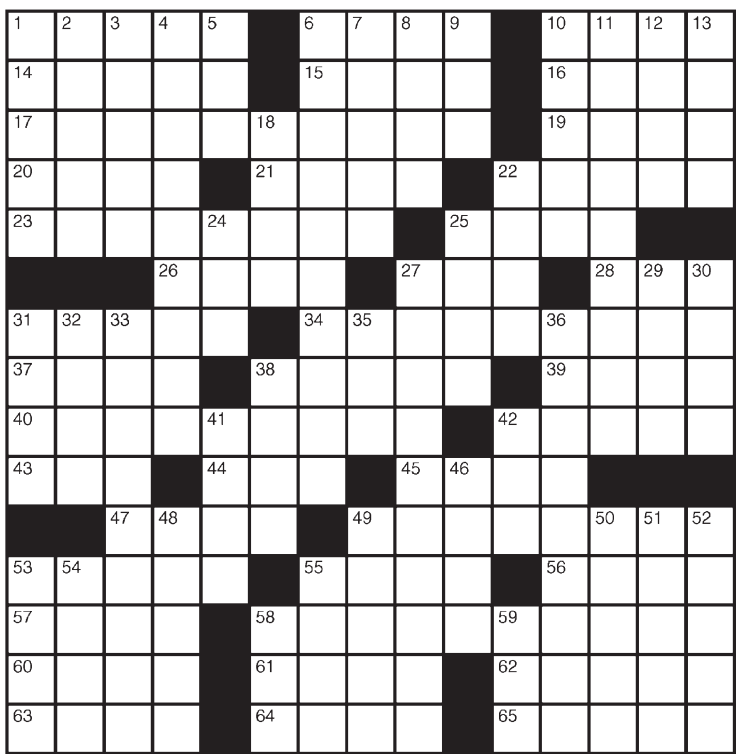
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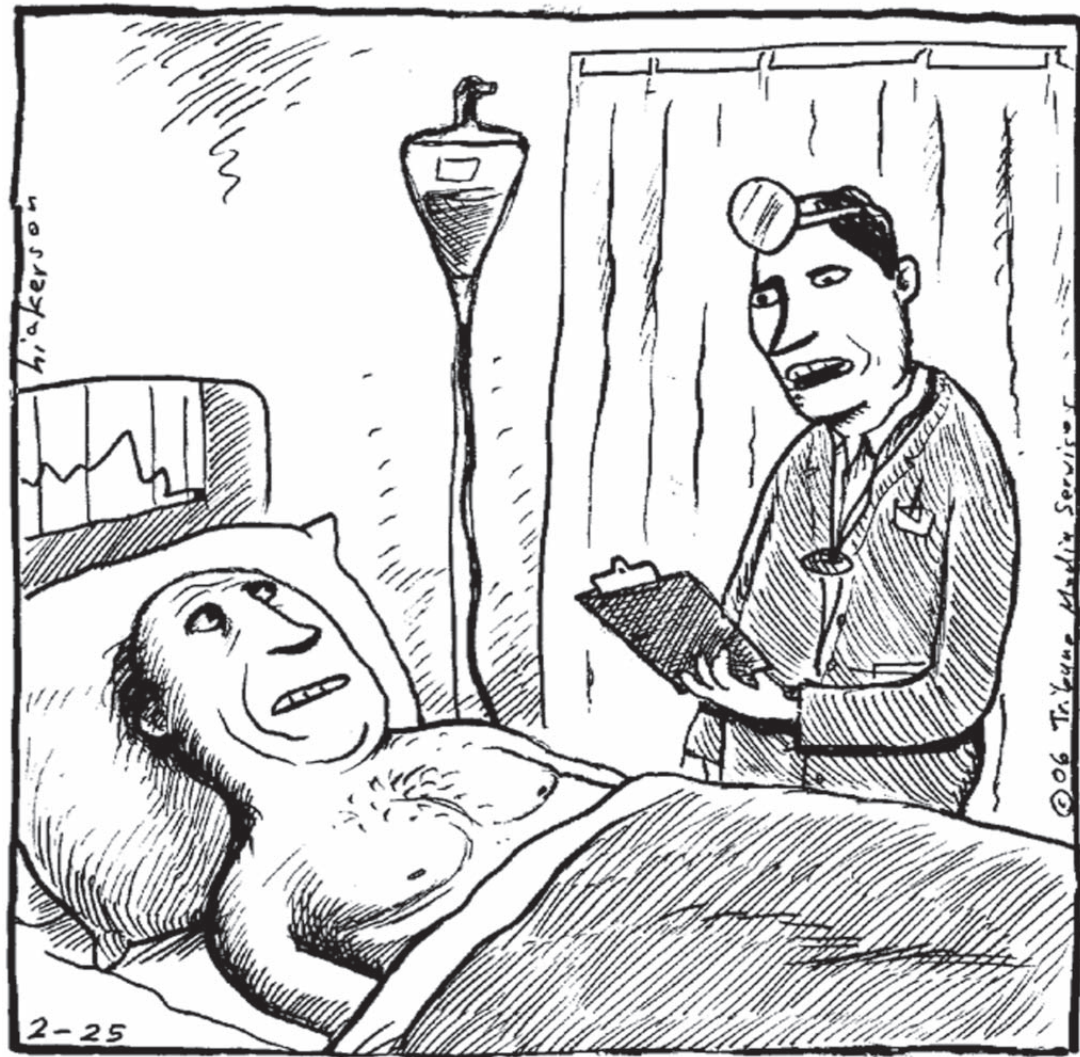
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DELEVED, LEVEL C, XX GAUGE, BULL STREET: 8 p.m. New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St. \$7 under, \$5 over 21.

"THE WHITE COUNTESS": 7, 9:30 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St. \$5.50 with student ID.

"VAGINA MONOLOGUES": 8 p.m. Law School Auditorium. \$8 for students, \$10 general public.

SPENCER RUSH, JOHN TAGLIERI: 8 p.m. Jammin Java. 1530 Main St. Pay what you want show.

Saturday
BURNS OUT BRIGHT, PAPER CHAMPIONS, BEN WALKER RADIO, MIKENPIKE: 7 p.m. New Brookland Tavern. \$5 advance, \$7 day of the show. All ages.

"THE WHITE COUNTESS": 3, 7, 9:30 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre. \$5 matinee, \$5.50 evening with student ID.

"VAGINA MONOLOGUES": 8 p.m. Law School Auditorium. \$8 for students, \$10 for general public.

"AMERICANA FESTIVAL": 6 p.m. Art Bar, 1211 Park St. \$3, 21+ only.

CAPITAL R, GUITAR SHOW, HOT LAVA MONSTER: 8 p.m. Headliners. 700 Gervais St.

DAVE PITTENGER AND BERG, RACHEL HEBERT: 9 p.m. Jammin Java. 1530 Main St. Pay what you want show

Sunday
"THE WHITE COUNTESS": 3, 7, 9:30 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre. \$5 matinee, \$5.50 evening with student ID.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES As you climb the ladder to success, you'll meet lots of interesting people. Make friends. They'll help make you even more successful in years to come.
TAURUS Travel is broadening. You can't fit back into a little box once you've been out.
GEMINI Conditions will be good this weekend, starting tonight, for travel. Romance and exciting partnerships are favored, too. Get going!
CANCER You've been very good at wheeling and dealing lately. Of course, you couldn't keep close count while the game was going on. Do that now.

LEO A friend comes to your rescue with good cheer and assistance. Well, you still had to do most of the work.
VIRGO You should be pretty well rested by now and ready to get back to work. Use all the technology you have to make the job more fun.
LIBRA A leisurely conversation with a technician leads to a better understanding and more efficient appliances. Or, whatever.
SCORPIO Why should you have to do everything? You shouldn't, of course. Get machines to do more of the work.

SAGITTARIUS Don't be intimidated by something you don't understand. All you have to do is read the books.
CAPRICORN Carefully monitor your spending. By using what you already have, you'll end up with a profit.
AQUARIUS Your confidence is on the rise, as well it should be. Take credit for doing a tough job, and teach what you've learned in the process.
PISCES You're coming up against a deadline. This one's important, so don't let it slip by. Set your alarm to keep you on task. And stop hitting the snooze.

PIERCINGS • CONTINUED FROM 6

why this piercing studio has truly stood the test of time — a notable feat, especially being in an area that isn't exactly known for drumming up a ton of business in the industry. It all comes down to a commitment to excellence.

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Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

HOT LAVA • CONTINUED FROM 6

comes great hurt, and this song tells about Baxley's experience with that.

"The Way of the Dinosaur" is a wonderful study of how contemporary musicians can modernize the sounds and vibes of classic rock.

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The Players Championship more fun than NCAA tourney

Famous holes, quality field make weekend at Sawgrass memorable

To most of the country, the coming weekend is the high water mark of March Madness. Many brackets will be busted as the field of 16 college basketball teams is narrowed to four.

But there is another, far more exciting, spectacle of sports entertainment taking place from Thursday to Sunday — The Players Championship — golf's unofficial fifth major.

The TPC at Sawgrass, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., is one of golf's greatest venues. The final two holes are so difficult and unpredictable that no lead is too safe, ensuring a dramatic finish.

The Players Championship is the deepest field in golf, with 48 of the top 50 golfers in the world taking part in the tournament.

The 17th hole at Sawgrass is known as the infamous Island Green. At 137 yards in distance, even the casual weekend golfer is tempted to think that they might be able to conquer the dubious par three.

What makes the hole so difficult is that there is no margin for error — you either hit the target or the ball is in the water. The green's surface is also very hard, so hitting the target is only half of the equation; keeping it on the green is another challenge altogether.

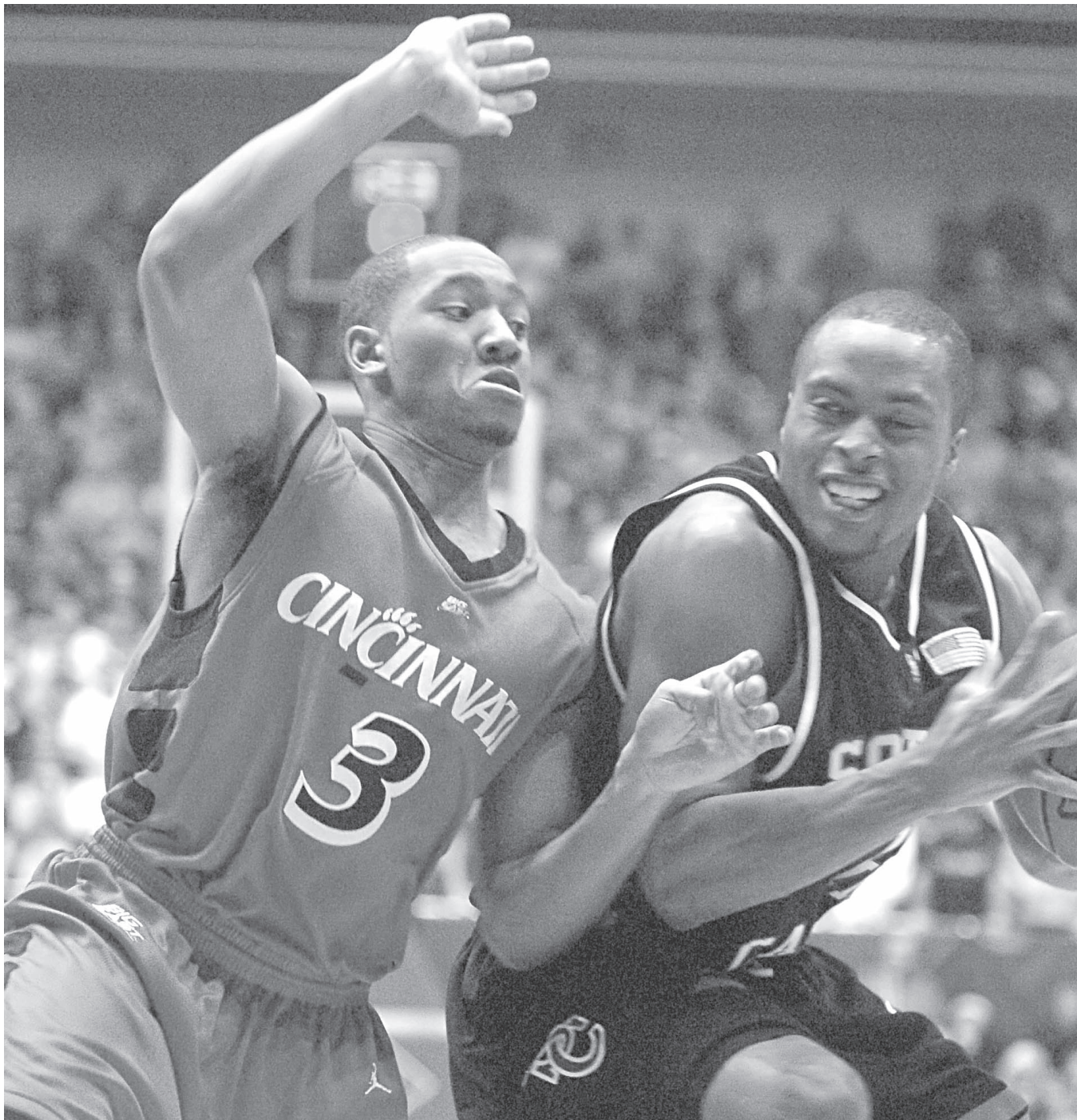
Of the 84 players that entered the tournament's final two rounds last year, 37 put at least one ball into the water on the 17th hole. In all, 54 balls found a final resting place in the murky waters surrounding the 17th green. Bob Tway put four straight balls in the water before three-putting for a

GREEN ● 9



TODD GREEN
Graduate student in sports and entertainment management

Back to the Big Apple



Tony Tribble / The Associated Press

USC's Tre' Kelley drives to the basket during the Gamecock's 65-62 win in the NIT quarterfinals Thursday. Kelley finished with 21 points as the Gamecocks advanced to the semifinals for the second year in a row.

Gamecocks beat Cincinnati to advance after 2 Bearcats' starters barred from play

Terry Kinney

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI — Tre' Kelley's nine-point outburst early in the second half and go-ahead basket in the final minute led USC to a 65-62 victory Thursday night over a Cincinnati team that had two starters declared ineligible just hours before its NIT quarterfinal game.

Kelley finished with 21 points and Tarence Kinsey had 18 for USC (21-15), which will play Louisville in Tuesday night's semifinals at Madison Square Garden in New York. Old Dominion plays Michigan in the other semifinal.

The Gamecocks are trying to become the first team to win consecutive NIT championships since St. John's in 1943 and 1944.

Eric Hicks led the short-handed Bearcats (21-13) with 22 points.

A Cincinnati spokesman, citing an NCAA ruling, declined to say why seniors James White and Jihad Muhammad were declared ineligible.

White, a 6-foot-7 swing player from Washington, was the Bearcats' leading scorer at 16 points a game. Muhammad, a 5-11 guard from Plainfield, N.J., averaged 11 points and was Cincinnati's top 3-point shooting threat.

Chadd Moore and Ronald

NIT ● 9

Rice still catching TDs; team wants second threat

After record-setting season, Rice trying to set example for other young receivers

AJ Bembry

STAFF WRITER

The USC football team continued its spring practices Wednesday afternoon, and the Gamecocks will likely pick up in September where they left off last year at the wide receiver position.

Record-setting redshirt freshman Sidney Rice leads his fellow wideouts, but the competition may

be picking up at the position.

Rice, Kenny McKinley, O.J. Murdock, Noah Whiteside, Freddie Brown, Paul Haile, former linebacker Mike West and a handful of walk-ons took part in the receiver drills and subsequent scrimmage Wednesday. Rice appears to be bigger than he was in the Independence Bowl in December, but his speed is noticeably different. On several routes during the wideout/defensive back scrimmage, Rice hit a second gear and created substantial separation from the secondary and hauled in deep passes from quarterbacks Blake Mitchell and Tommy Beecher.

While Rice was snatching everything that came his way, the same couldn't be said for the rest of the corps, most notably Murdock, the 2005 prize recruit from Tampa, Fla. Murdock had some trouble catching passes cleanly during some of the drills, as he would juggle the pass before bringing it into his body. During the scrimmages, however, Murdock appeared to have better control of the ball, as he caught passes with certainty while making cuts downfield.

"I think O.J. and the rest of those guys are doing a real decent job," Rice said. "Coaches are teaching them new things, trying to get them to work harder in individual

and pass skills, so as long as they're doing that, they'll be fine."

After about an hour and a half of practice, the team headed to Williams-Brice for a full-contact, 11-on-11 scrimmage. The first play saw a quick touchdown from Mitchell to Rice, with Rice again blasting by the defense and racing down the left side for the score. Although Rice and Mitchell are entrenched as the team's top pass-and-catch combination, Beecher, the Concord, N.C., product, threw the ball well during drills and the scrimmage. He rifled balls to West, who looks to be a natural fit on the

RECEIVERS ● 9

Baseball ready to face UF in top-10 battle

Tom Benning

STAFF WRITER

After taking care of two instate rivals, the USC baseball team (19-3) will turn its sights back to the Southeastern Conference this weekend against Florida (17-8). The series will be a matchup of two Top-10 teams, despite the Gators losing two of its last three games.

"We may be playing a team that is underperforming right now, but they are still very, very good," said USC head coach Ray Tanner. "We have great respect for them, and we are hoping we can catch them at the right time."

Last season, UF took the series from USC 2-1 and went on to compete in the national championship

game at the College World Series. With much of its squad returning this year, the Gators earned a No. 3 preseason ranking and were favored to win the SEC.

However, Florida stumbled early, at one point losing five out of seven games. Injuries hampered the team, but the Gators' powerful offense kept them afloat. While Florida ranks 11th in the SEC in batting average (.266), they are second in runs (173), RBI (161), walks (114).

The Gators also have two of the league's top pitchers, based on earned-run average, in relief pitcher Darren O'Day (1.04 ERA) and starter Bryan Augenstein (1.49 ERA).

Despite these numbers,

GATORS ● 9



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

USC first baseman Justin Smoak and the Gamecocks play host to Florida for a weekend series matching two top-10 SEC teams. The Gators have lost two of their last three.

USC doesn't overlook Paladins, gets big win

Team avenges last year's losses, looks to Gators

Michael Aguilar

THE GAMECOCK

USC's baseball team has a lot to look forward to this weekend, namely proving its worth by playing conference foe No. 9 Florida. That said, the team could not look past a game against instate competitor Furman on Wednesday.

Last season is a good example. A streaking Furman team stormed into Columbia and gave the Gamecocks a loss that would not soon be forgotten.

"There was no doubt that Furman played well against us last season," coach Ray Tanner said. "I've never put the suit on when I didn't want to win, but certainly I was glad to get a win

tonight."

The team made sure there was no repetition of last season's debacle by taking an early lead it did not relinquish. USC won 11-3 behind sophomore Harris Honeycutt's pitching and strong hitting from sophomore catcher Trent Kline and senior third baseman Neil Giesler.

Furman struck first with speed. Batters got up on Honeycutt early in the count, and the first inning looked as if the Paladins had brought all the Gamecocks could handle. Furman took a one-run lead after an RBI double from freshman Jay Jackson.

That was the last FU

BASEBALL ● 9

NIT ● CONTINUED FROM 8

Allen started in place of Muhammad and White. Moore, whose chronic back problems forced him to quit the team for a while last year, received lower back massages from a trainer during timeouts late in the game.

The dismissals of White and Muhammad left Cincinnati with just nine players in uniform. That included Branden Miller, a preseason walk-on, and Connor Barwin, a freshman tight end on the school's football team who volunteered to help two months ago when the Bearcats didn't have enough healthy players to scrimmage.

The Bearcats led 37-33 in the second half when Kelley hit a short jumper

and stole a pass under the Cincinnati basket and drove the length of the court for another hoop. He followed that with a 3-pointer and then scored on a putback after another turnover.

Cincinnati tied it three times after that, the last time at 59 with 2:22 to go on a basket by Hicks. But that was the last touch for Hicks.

A layup by Kelley with 48 seconds left put USC ahead for good.

It was finally the end of the road for Cincinnati, which lost its coach shortly before the start of the season and was plagued by injuries.

The ruling on White and Muhammad was announced less than two hours before the game and shortly before a televised news conference in which former Bearcats

coach Bob Huggins was introduced as Kansas State's new coach.

Huggins' former assistant, Andy Kennedy, served as interim coach this season and is a candidate for the permanent job. He's also believed to be a finalist in Mississippi's coaching search. Cincinnati officials last week hired a consultant to help narrow their search.

Cincinnati fans chanted their support for Kennedy and gave him three standing ovations — when he came onto the court before the start of each half, and when two fans who participated in a free-throw shooting contest during a timeout held up signs saying, "Hire Andy."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu

RECEIVERS ● CONTINUED FROM 8

offensive side of the ball, and a deep pass to Brown. Beecher was able to sustain a long drive downfield thanks to a couple of long passes and hard running from tailback Bobby Wallace. Fellow redshirt freshman quarterback Cade Thompson also looked sharp by recognizing a few blitz packages quickly and hitting Wallace as his safety valve. Thompson did, however, throw the only interception of the scrimmage, to cornerback Fred Bennett.

"I think Cade and Tommy are coming along real well," Rice said. "They're doing a decent job throwing the ball. They just got to learn to read coverages a little more, but I think they'll be fine, also."

In addition to an improved running game from Wallace, Cory Boyd and last season's starter, Mike Davis, it will be imperative for another wide receiver to take pressure off of Rice if the Gamecocks hope to contend for the Southeastern Conference title next season. Rice is already expecting plenty of double- and triple-team coverages.

"I have no doubt that (the receivers) will be able to do it. McKinley, Murdock, (tight end) Jared Cook and



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

USC wide receiver Sidney Rice jogs with running back Bobby Wallace during spring practice March 12.

also Noah Whiteside are going to do a decent job on the other side of the ball, whichever side they're on," Rice said. "Also having Cory Boyd back in the backfield is going to be a big plus."

USC will scrimmage Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Williams-Brice Stadium.

USC coach Steve Spurrier

said the practice is "open to the public, anybody that wants to come out, we'd appreciate it."

"We'd like to have some people in the stands when our guys are playing," Spurrier said. "Everybody come out Saturday."

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BASEBALL ● CONTINUED FROM 8

would see of the lead. As quick as Furman's offense had been, USC came back to tie the game. After an error and some smart batting, the Gamecocks produced their first run off of a sacrifice fly by Giesler; it was his first of two RBI for the game.

In the top of the second inning it looked as though Honeycutt might not be cut out to take on the Paladins. He walked the first batter, junior infielder Joe Daysh. After Daysh stole second, a fielder's choice moved him to third. Tanner decided it was time to have a word with his young pitcher.

"I thought he was trying to be too perfect," Tanner said. "I told him that now we needed to be competitive because the bullpen was getting ready to warm up. And you know, he responded."

After that meeting, Honeycutt's pitching picked up, and the Gamecock defense responded to his lead. Honeycutt retired the next two batters, and in the third he allowed one hit and walked one batter before retiring three batters in a row, striking out two of them and getting the other to line out to senior second baseman Chris Brown. Honeycutt finished with five strikeouts in six innings pitched and earned the win.

As Honeycutt responded to Tanner's words on the defensive end, in the bottom of the second inning the offense gave him some room to breathe. After a single, Kline stepped up to the plate and knocked the ball deep to right field for a two-run homerun.

The rest of the game was just short of flawless for USC. Honeycutt stayed on top of the Paladin offense,

and Furman did not score another run in the game until he was taken out in the top of the seventh.

USC had hot bats to match Honeycutt's arm and by the sixth inning had put together a lead that was insurmountable for the Furman offense. On top of Giesler's two RBIs, Brown added two runs himself and two RBIs. Kline's early homerun gave him two RBIs, and he added two runs as well.

"We're seeing the ball good," Giesler said. "So, we just keep getting hits."

That was a modest assessment of the performance the Gamecocks' bats ended up with. The defense stayed solid for the entire game, and Furman contributed to its own demise with six errors.

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GATORS ● CONTINUED FROM 8

the Gamecocks have some reason to be confident this weekend. USC has won its last four home series against Florida. The Gamecocks are the SEC's top fielding team, and third baseman Neil Giesler leads the SEC in batting average (.480) and hits (36).

To have success against Florida, Tanner believes USC simply needs to continue to build on the progress the team has made so far.

"We're going to focus on what we do best," he said. "We have to continue

to pitch well and hope our offense stays consistent. We've turned the corner a bit offensively, and that's a big key for us."

The Gamecocks are seventh in the SEC in batting average (.304), but they are in the top half of most other offensive categories. USC is also one of the most-disciplined teams at the plate, striking out a league-low 83 times.

Recently, USC has begun to heat up at the plate. During the past ten games, the team is averaging more than nine runs per game. During this span, the Gamecocks are 9-1.

The Florida series will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and will match junior southpaw Arik Hempy (1-1, 3.27) against Florida right-hander Bryan Ball (4-2, 3.72). Saturday's 4 p.m. game appears to have the makings of a pitcher's duel with freshman sensation Mike Cisco (2-0, 1.29) squaring off against UF right-hander Augenstein (5-1). The 2 p.m. Sunday game will feature junior lefty Forrest Beverly (4-1, 4.15) against a currently undetermined pitcher from the Gators.

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Al's Upstairs Italian Restaurant **Line Cook Needed** - Evenings, \$8-15/hr. Call Chef Mike 920-9407. Apply at 300 Meeting St. W. Cola 1-5pm

SUBWAY
Now hiring nights & weekends. Please apply at 100 Assembly. Looking for employees who can work through the summer.

PASTA FRESCA
Now hiring AM & PM servers **Apply in person at 3405 Forest Drive.**
****LUNCH HOURS ONLY****
START \$10/HR W/EXPERIENCE
Customer service - sandwich maker. **Apply in person NO NAME DELI 2042 Marion St. N Phone Calls Please.**

Help Wanted Restaurants

IHOP NOW HIRING **SERVERS, HOSTESSES /CASHIERS** Will work with school schedule. No Tip Sharing. **Email arsalco@aol.com or Apply in person 7719 Two Notch Rd 813 St. Andrews Road**

The Carolinian Hotel is taking applications for Rest. Servers, BQT Servers, BQT Captain, Rest. Supervisor, Bartenders and Cooks. **Apply in person at 7510 Two Notch Rd. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

LIBERTY TAPROOM
Now accepting applications for servers. Must have serving exp in a high volume upscale casual restaurant. **Apply in person Tues-Thur between 2 & 4pm @ 828 Gervais St.**



Now hiring at both locations 252 Harbison Blvd. 7611 Two Notch Road for Servers, Hosteses, Bussers and Cooks. Must be available throughout the Holidays. **Apply in person M-Thur 2-4**



ARE YOU WILD ABOUT YOUR JOB? **Wild Wing Cafe** is coming to Harbison. We're hiring for all positions right now. Front/Back of house. Flexible schedules, Ins. & 401K. **Apply in person at 1150 Bower Pkwy. (Columbiana Center) Wed - Fri. 10am-6pm.**

PASTA FRESCA - Seeking daytime prep person/dishwasher. **Apply in person at 3405 Forest Drive.**

Carrabba's Italian Grill in NE Columbia is hiring for all FOH and BOH positions. **Apply in person from 12-4 at 200 Grace's Way (across from Spring Valley HS) 865-5688.**

Additional info:

Two-line minimum
Lines average 30 characters in length

DEADLINE:

Noon, 1 business day prior to publication
Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted

Help Wanted Drivers

VALET ATTENDANTS NEEDED Must be outgoing and do not mind heavy running. **Please call David @ 479-8077. \$10/hr. average.**



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BUSINESS IS BOOMING & WE NEED MORE DRIVERS! GREAT WAY TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY!

Short shifts available. Must be 18 y.o have valid driver's license and current insurance. Health, Dental, Vision, 401k available to all employees. **Apply at any of the following locations:** 817 St. Andrews Road, Columbia 800 Lake Murray Blvd, Imo 3937-A Platt Springs Rd, W. Columbia 558 Sunset Blvd, Lexington 136 S. assembly St. Columbia 4464 Devine St. Columbia 10008 Two Notch Rd, Columbia **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

Help Wanted Runners

RUNNER - Downtown law firm has summer runner openings. Responsibilities including filing legal documents at courthouses, making local deliveries, making bank deposits, delivering faxes, processing mail, making copies, and filing. Open work schedule for summer 8:30am-1pm or 1pm-6pm. Salary is \$6.50/hr and mileage reimbursement is \$.445/mile. Candidates must be dependable and have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. **Please apply in person at Richardson, Plowden, Carpenter & Robinson, PA, 1600 Marion St. EOE**

PT RUNNER/COURIER For mid-sized downtown Columbia law firm for Thursdays & Fridays only, 9am-6pm to begin around May 1st. Must own your own vehicle, good driving record required. Mileage paid. **Fax resume to 252-0786 or email to BusinessManager272@hotmail.com**

Opportunities

Are you open to discovering a way to make extra money? If I could show you a way to eat and drink healthier, make money doing it, would you want to know more about it? Call 920-8887 or noblem@netscape.com

Volunteer

VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS SEEKING LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES Camp Happy Days is now taking applications for volunteer camp counselors. This is an opportunity to spend one, outrageous week in Summerton, SC at a lakeside adventure camp. The job? To help us inspire, give hope and strength to some truly amazing kids--cancer kids and their siblings. This is the most exciting week you'll ever experience. The most powerful and meaningful way you will ever volunteer your time. Counselors must be 20 year of age or older. Camp is held from July 1-8. This experience cost only your time, energy and heart. **For more information and to fill out an application, visit camphappydays.com or call 1-800-467-5397. Application deadline is April 27th.**

Travel

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APPLY NOW!

Student Media is now accepting applications for the following leadership positions:

- **Gamecock Editor in chief, Summer 2006 and Fall 2006**

The editor in chief is responsible for the editorial aspect of the newspaper including content, recruitment and supervision of the editorial staff.
- **Garnet and Black Editor in chief, 2006-2007**

The editor in chief is responsible for the editorial aspect of the magazine including content, recruitment and supervision of the G&B staff. The magazine will be published twice each semester of 2006-2007.
- **WUSC-FM Station Manager, 2006-2007**

The station manager is responsible for every aspect of the radio station including broadcast content, publications, promotions, fundraising and the recruitment and supervision of WUSC-FM staff.




DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Wednesday, March 29

by 4 p.m. in RH room 115

Applications and job descriptions can be picked up in the Office of the Director of Student Life, RH 115, or online at www.dailygamecock.com or www.sa.sc.edu/studentmedia.



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